Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): Device for singulating overlapping flat mailings in an upright position in a path of travel ~~with~~ comprising:

several singulating sections ~~arranged~~ disposed along the path of travel with an ensemble of conveyor belts, each of said singulating ~~section~~ sections having respective conveyor belts of said ensemble of conveyor belts spaced apart from each other and above each other ~~and~~ for transporting the mailings, and each of said singulating sections having, at an opposite side of the path of travel, respective retaining elements for acting on the mailings with a friction force and at a height between the conveyor belts, wherein a speed of travel of ~~the~~ said conveyor belts in each said singulating section is higher than the speed of travel of ~~the~~ said conveyor belts of ~~the~~ a respective said singulating section upstream in the direction of travel, individually mounted deflection rollers of ~~the~~ said conveyor belts of ~~both~~ adjacent said singulating sections are ~~arranged~~ disposed at different heights along a common axis at

each transition between ~~the~~ said singulating sections.

Claim 2 (currently amended): Device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said ensemble of conveyor belts has conveyor belts for receiving the mailings and respective transferring conveyor belts, said conveyor belts receiving the mailings have a higher coefficient of friction than said respective transferring conveyor belts.

Claim 3 (currently amended): Device in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~after~~ behind receiving conveyor belts of the ensemble of conveyor belts in a receiving area the mailings are arranged at vacuum chambers pulling the receiving conveyor belts.

Claim 4 (original): Device in accordance with claim 1, wherein at each transition between the singulating sections a receiving area of the downstream singulating section has one conveyor belt more than a transferring area of the upstream singulating section, wherein center singulating sections each have two conveyor belt areas, with drive belts being coupled by means of a common wide coupling roller and with the conveyor belt area receiving the particular mailings having one conveyor belt more than a transferring conveyor belt area in these singulating sections.

Claim 5 (original): Device in accordance with claim 1, wherein each singulating section has a measuring device in a receiving area for recording a speed of the mailings.

Claim 6 (currently amended): Device in accordance with claim 5, wherein a drive motor of the conveyor belt of each of the upstream singulating sections in the direction of travel can be switched off or reduced in speed if the mailing arriving in the respective downstream singulating section has achieved a speed of a receiving conveyor belt of said ensemble of conveyor belts, and the switch-off or reduction persists until a clearance between the mailings, specified for each singulating section, has been determined by means of a line of light barriers arranged along the path of travel.

Claim 7 (currently amended): Device in accordance with claim 3, wherein additionally a vacuum of the vacuum chamber of each singulating section upstream in the direction of travel can be switched off or reduced if the corresponding mailing arriving in a succeeding singulating section has reached a speed of a receiving conveyor belt of said ensemble of conveyor belts, and the switch-off and or reduction persists until a clearance between the mailings, specified for each singulating section, is determined by means of a line of light barriers arranged

along the path of travel.

Claim 8 (original): Device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the retaining elements are secured on an immoveable belt running along the length of all singulating sections.